

# Draft Minutes

---

## Communities of Opportunity Interim Governance Group

*January 20, 2017, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm*

*Location: Seattle Foundation*

**Members Present:** Michael Brown, Katherine Cortes, Ubax Gardheere, Betsy Jones, Paola Maranan, Jeff Natter, Tony To; with Deanna Dawson, Gordon McHenry, Sili Savusa, Adam Taylor participating by phone.

**Staff Present:** Andréa Akita, Dan Bernard, Sharon Bogan, Alice Ito, Kirsten Wysen; with Marguerite Ro, Kristin Moore joining by phone.

Meeting goals:

- Provide feedback on COO Advisory Board process
  - Review results framework and context for a COO “Landscape Assessment”
- 

**Welcome and introductions** – Michael Brown welcomed the group to the new Seattle Foundation offices.

**COO Advisory Board** – Andrea described the requirements for creating a new Advisory Board based on County requirements for Best Starts for Kids/Communities of Opportunity funding. She outlined a process for receiving applications with a timeline for a vote on new members by IGG at the February 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. The process has an expedited timeframe to adhere to the King County Council’s goal for seating the board by February. IGG members reviewed the draft application and provided feedback on additional (optional) demographic categories for gender. They weighed in on simplifying the application and including an option for a short bio as an alternative to providing a resume. IGG members also made suggestions for including questions that address experience and vision to further COO goals. The application form will be revised and sent to the IGG members to share with their networks. A work group will be formed to review applications prior to the next IGG meeting.

**Strategic Planning Discussion** -- Betsy and Michael led the IGG members in an exercise on COO vision and results framework where all people...

- thrive economically (economic opportunity)
- are connected to community and have a voice
- have quality affordable housing
- are healthy

IGG members provided examples of current activities planned and how they promote the kinds of results that we wish to impact through COO (*see results framework discussion notes on pages 3-5*). In walking through the results framework, we highlighted areas where intersections, opportunities and gaps exist.

### Landscape Assessment

The results framework exercise, helped to provide a context for working with the Urban Institute on a Landscape Assessment. Urban submitted a proposal to COO that would include an initial engagement/discovery phase to understand King County (communities, demographics, social and economic landscape); investment strategies,

programs / results and other relevant programs and initiatives. This initial phase would provide a basis for analysis on policy/program recommendations that could improve the outcomes identified as priority areas for COO. If we engage Urban in a second phase of work, our goal would be to have greater understanding of the evidence basis for specific recommendations, the identification of potential implementation challenges, and advice about COO program performance metrics. Staff recommends engaging Urban for an initial phase of work, with an option to increase the scope of work pending satisfactory completion of the discovery phase report.

A phased approach is planned to allow COO IGG / Advisory Board to work with Urban to design potential future phases of the Assessment. The initial phase of work is estimated at \$25,000 and would begin in February/March. Member(s) of the Urban team will come to a future IGG meeting and we plan to invite them to attend the first convening with our place-based partners and policy/systems grantees.

#### Discussion:

- Analysis needs to be in the local context.
- Urban Institute has done a good deal of research on the wealth gap. Tools that they have used would be interesting; what are the policies and systems to address wealth gaps by race/ethnicity?
- Financial empowerment tools are needed here. Evidence-policies to advance the well-being of COO places are beneficial.
- When do we identify how to influence policymakers who can bring these policies and systems changes to bear? Policymakers, and also advocates are key stakeholders. Councilmembers will be interested in participating in the learning community, bringing people into the conversation early on is helpful.
- How can we get the Learning Community started? How can we not let the perfect be the enemy of the good?
- Andrea noted that staff is making plans to bring together our grantees. They haven't been able to share their work with each other. She has heard that there are questions and interest in learning what kinds of cross over, cross-pollination, and conflict is already happening in COO so far. How are communities/grantees adjusting to the changes at the federal level? We'd like to have a meeting in the first quarter so we can get started and grow from there. Urban Institute could be part of the first meeting.
- Landscape analysis would be helpful so we can understand what else is connected to COO. Where are the high-leverage partnerships? For example, Seattle Foundation is working with Brookings on suburban poverty mitigation.
- COO staff was encouraged to look for opportunities to disseminate broadly beyond our grantees as well. We have a goal to broaden and engage more people. Will our place-based, policy/systems change grantees, learning community get us to where we want to be? How can we make a big impact?
- It will be helpful to revisit where we are, and what the gaps are. We need to identify which policies and systems we are trying to influence.

#### Updates

**KUOW equity series:** Sharon shared info that KUOW has a new reporting team, they have enterprise teams and one is a racial/equity team. These reporters are looking at how racial inequities affect our region. How can we take this opportunity to highlight COO work?

KUOW asked for a conversation with the health department to ground reporters in the issues. Jeff Duchin, MD, Health Officer, and Sheila Capestany, Strategic Advisor on Children and Youth met with KUOW (as has King County ESJ Director, M Valenzuela). KUOW is looking for stories. This week they are highlighting the Affordable Care Act; they are also interested in restorative justice, displacement issues, several topics raised today would be interesting to them. If you have ideas about stories, Sharon/COO team can connect KUOW reporters to our partners to highlight their struggles/success. They could be part of initial interviews or host community visit with

the reporting team. There's some grounding that is needed to help listeners understand the issue(s) – what led us here and what are we doing to change things (e.g. redlining policies).

**BSK/COO Evaluation Plan.** An evaluation plan is due to County Council in July. We are looking for IGG members to participate on an evaluation/impact working group.

---

## **Discussion Notes on Results Framework & Current Activities/Gaps**

### **All people have quality affordable housing**

- Good news/not-so-good news: Seattle housing levy resources available, but there's uncertainty with Low-income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) and the pricing of tax credits/value they will have.
- There are 108 units under construction, 300 in design phase LIHI, 70 units at the Opportunity Center, workforce units for rent in Rainier Valley site
- White Center—acquisition of public health center space, looking at 100 units, could be a place for families to live, work and gather; blighted homes in White Center—looking at ways for people to repair/improve homes and maintain value; increase access to healthy housing
- SeaTac/Tukwila—housing is a new strategy area, contract with Housing Development Consortium, KCHA acquired properties, Tukwila Village is being built, the 154<sup>th</sup> St space could have housing, 200<sup>th</sup> St station has properties as well.
- Opportunities coming—Rainier Beach Action Coalition, HALA proposed zoning changes might not match up with the community's vision, Rainier Beach community meetings are not planned, the RB neighborhood plan, balancing the 6,000 new units with preserving affordable housing, how can we make sure we're not losing more affordable housing than we're gaining.
- Seniors who own homes now are concerned that new upzoning and tax increases are creating increasing numbers of seniors of color who have tax liens on their homes. Part of the community is not being heard. These seniors are losing their homes, they are being impacted by the property taxes, zoning changes. How can we protect existing property owners? People don't know there are tax exemption programs available from the City of Seattle. HomeSight believes going door-to-door is important strategy.
- How can we defend CDBG given the new HUD priorities?
- The Board of Health also works on healthy housing issues. If health housing is of interest, connect with Katherine Cortes who also staffs the King County Board of Health.

### **All people thrive economically**

- White Center—redeveloping the old public health center—which will bring in jobs, bring in financial planning and marketing to small business owners, improve commercial space, young adult employment and education completion, and Dan's workforce development/WorkSource connections. New partners joining the work.
- Policy /resource issue: Annexation is approaching.
- SeaTac—Food Innovation Network, incubator kitchen, food entrepreneurs, larger space at Matt Griffin YMCA, and broaden COO work to workforce development highly skilled refugees and immigrants, Highline CC Welcome Back, Jewish Services, Swedish, HealthPoint.
- Could also do more with health careers, Community Health Workers.
- 154th Street property, SeaTac received a \$1.25M grant to look at an international market.

### **All people are healthy**

- Rainier Valley—SEEOC has a partnership, Odessa Brown, ICHS and Consejo are working together on a wellness facility, DSHS Capital Hill and S Seattle CSO office is coming to the Opportunity Center,

integration manager for all the services coming into the Opportunity Center, how can people see the Opportunity Center as a place for one-stop shopping? The Opportunity Center will have open space and are looking at safe walking spaces, sidewalks are unsafe on MLK, there's no buffer to the street, a safe walking connection from Othello to Rainier Beach.

- White Center—healthy affordable food through FEESTs' work, WC survey showed that access to healthy affordable food and health is a high priority, losing the WC public health center reduced access to services/
- Group Health Foundation and Kaiser Permanente are joining. There are gaps for culturally specific services for elders, e.g. Pacific Islanders and Marshalese are having trouble getting health services, more are moving in without health care services.
- Center for Health Care Strategies' meeting in the fall 2016—how can the health care system serve people, how is health defined?
- SeaTac/Tukwila—Global 2 Local works on this area the most, the FIN works on increasing health affordable food access, community gardens, Good Food Bag in to SeaTac/Tukwila, Community Health Workers refer their patients to fitness programs, reporting back on patients' progress, create an info loop so providers know, info desk connects HealthPoint patients to housing, education, financial coaching as well as health coaching, happy to be making this more central to COO.

#### **All people are connected to community and have a voice**

- Rainier Valley, Seattle—Rainier Beach Action Coalition is doing public safety work, greeters program for kids coming home and going to school.
- White Center—civic engagement, provide leadership training and connect residents to leadership training programs, community events and activities to promote multi-generational connection in culturally relevant ways. Youth intern at WCCDA recommends working with other youth-led programs. Culturally relevant programs in WC—advocates in specific languages.
- SeaTac/Tukwila-community food advocates, the group has moved to more leadership roles, looking to broaden work with cities of SeaTac and Tukwila on training residents about what city government does so people can be engaged in land use planning and community safety municipal work.
- Policy/systems grants have supported African American Reach and Teach for Health, FEEST.

#### **What else could COO do?**

- Financial stability for small business owners, accelerate pathways to different sectors. Who has expertise in this area? Who else might we want to recruit for the GG? How do we really get to the big results?
- A big issue is how to prevent displacement of small businesses owned by people of color now.
- Tactical activities, and how to align with other efforts.
- Seattle Foundation works with two CDFIs working with women-owned businesses in South KC. Policy and legal technical assistance could be useful as well.
- Local food initiatives opportunity, the local food economy and access to healthy food, the missing leg of the stool, food insecurity, hunger, COO could fill a unique niche here.
- How can we include youth in the broader economic opportunity issues, not just in work on community safety?
- Sound Transit 3's Graham Street stop poses opportunities for outreach with community/planning to increase opportunity, policy/system work on anti-displacement.
- We've done some youth oriented work, but this is a gap area. Need to look at what strategies can make a big impact on "% of youth with an adult to turn to for help" White Center adverse childhood trauma. Court, child welfare, and justice involved youth is an opportunity area. (Crosses into "community connections").
- There are gaps in activities, and a gap in terms of scale.